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BENEFICE NEWS

2nd August 2020

the benefice of saxmundham with kelsale-cum-carlton

ONE CHURCH

four congregations

St Peter, St Mary & St Peter, St John, Connections



Unpacking The Word

- reflecting on Sunday's message -

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Unpacking The Word

ZOOM together

6:30 - 7:30 Sunday evening

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

**When people look into the eyes of Jesus
they see God, face to face.**

Worship this Sunday

The Benefice 'Service of the Word' this Sunday will be a very manly affair! Available from 9am (and don't forget the 6:30pm ZOOM to chew it all over).

... and August will be a little different at Connections

Allowing Tom, Lou and family to have a break from hosting 'Live from the Lounge', Connections in August will try something new. Tune in at 10am to get a taste of Beach Mission, Southwold style, and to watch 'The Chosen' - the source series from which came the woman-at-the-well clip we all recently enjoyed.

So: to try these out ... just click these links...

- 9am Service of the Word, led by the Men's Group
[St John's church website](#) and the [St John's YouTube channel](#)
- 10am [Connections Facebook page](#) (and later on the [Connections YouTube channel](#))
- 10:30am - actually in St John's - a shortened service of Holy Communion
- 6:30pm 'Unpacking the Word, a Zoom accessed through <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2907979571>

Wholeness and Healing

We are now back in church but unable to offer Wholeness and Healing in the way we would have done before lockdown. But, the Wholeness and Healing team are still available and willing to pray with and for you. If you have a need for personal prayer please do contact Jill 452423, Fran 602907 or Shirley 602866, we are available to pray for you.

Page Turners Book Club

We met this week to discuss The Salt Path by Raynor Winn. It is one of the few books that we have all enjoyed and would recommend to anyone wanting a good read. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th September at 2:30pm (venue TBA), we will be discussing Bringing in the Sheaves by Rev Richard Coles. Please do let Jill (452423) know if you would like to come along.

! STOP PRESS !

The SHCT annual sponsored ride and stride is going ahead

Could this be your year to take part ?

Saturday 12th September 2020

Plan a walk or cycle ride visiting as many local churches as possible and raise money for our church buildings.

Have you rediscovered cycling during lock down ?

Are you now a keen walker ?

For sponsorship and entry forms and all the other information which you will need please contact

Fran Raven 01728 602907

franraven@hotmail.com

David May 01728 602113

Nigel Pite 01728 604758



Information is also available on the Suffolk Historic Churches website – www.shct.org.uk

The event has been simplified this year to allow for health precautions and there is an option for raising sponsorship on line. Use the Just Giving link on the website – it's on the Ride and Stride page quite a long way down. Then click on “Doing your own thing” and the Suffolk Historic Churches comes up for you to create your sponsorship page.

Wrestling with God

(Genesis 32. 22-31)

In our Genesis reading today we find that Jacob has left his father-in-law Laban's land with his two wives and servants to return to his own

homeland. He sends them ahead and is tested as he wrestles all night with a 'stranger' who reveals himself as God. Jacob earns the new name 'Israel'- God's Warrior - instead of his old name the 'Deceiver' because he has 'striven with God and prevailed (v.28)'. The new name Israel reaffirms the promise given to his ancestor Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Just in case Israel doubts God's promise his hip is dislocated and he is left with a permanent limp.

How do you deal with being 'tested', not in the 'test and trace' Covid-19 sense but when you are faced with a big decision in your life? Do you look carefully at the options and work out a strategy or are you like me, a dog with a bone having to keep gnawing away at it from all angles? What if I am wrong ... what if I fail ... what about my family ... usually tossing and turning all night. The only 'strategy' I have found helpful is to 'test' different options and prayerfully wait to see if any 'doors' open - God incidences I called them the other week - also referred to as a 'calling' which persists until one way or the other there is an answer. For me it was when our children were young I spent ten weeks with my leg in plaster from hip to toe and I said, 'All right Lord, I don't understand what you are calling me to but I am offering' ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

Hymns can often help ... as someone wisely put it, when we sing we pray twice. 'What a friend we have in Jesus' exclaims 'O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer'. Then in the hymn 'I the Lord of sea and sky' that sense of relief when eventually we dare to sing the answer to the question, 'Whom shall I send? ... Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. Amen.

Pam Peeling

Please Pray For...

Prayer is requested for Tony Gibbs, awaiting a hospital appointment. Also for Jack and Sheila Hague, isolating for 2 weeks in preparation for Jack's surgery. For Debbie Gallienne- Ward's mother who has had successful heart surgery with prayer that she has a good recovery following her return to Guernsey.

[Click here to see the Lectionary readings for every day.](#)

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